To Roxbury Residents,

Roxbury was incorporated in 1812 by absorbing land from 4 different towns. Most of our residents take great pride in our special character, independence and the beautiful rural setting. Your selectmen and other town officials have worked hard over the years to protect Roxbury's character and independence.

As many towns Roxbury has faced intermittent difficulties over the past 208 years including significant changes to our population, changes in education of our students, establishment of the Keene reservoirs and watershed areas, Otter Brook dam with subsequent displacement of residents, dramatic changes to industries in the town from mills, quarries and farms to the more bedroom community we have now, large increase in requirements from the State for managing the town business and finally the dramatic change in technology.

Roxbury depends mostly on volunteers and some officials that get minimal compensation for their efforts. They do this for a love of their town and their feelings of obligation to be a public servant. We are facing a crisis in the lack of interest by residents that want to participate in town government. We have a selectman who will be leaving that position this year, a selectmen that has been continuously involved in town government for 30 years and only took this position on because of the need not desire and another selectman who has served for 4 years and can’t be expected to serve for ever.. Your town depends on a functioning town government. We had to shut down the conservation committee, have not had a fully functioning planning board in years and are lacking residents on the ZBA as well. Many of the residents participating in the town government have multiple positions because of the lack of interest of other residents.

If we cannot fill selectmen positions with the present system there are only a few solutions. One would be to take the load off the selectmen by hiring a town manager at exorbitant cost or ultimately being absorbed into Keene which would dramatically change the character and rural nature of our town let alone adverse changes in taxes, regulations etc.

So we are sending out this letter in an attempt for the residents to understand the continuing need for volunteers to keep Roxbury going as an independent community. We all have busy lives and understand that some residents think they do not have the time. Some residents do not think they have the qualifications for any position but there are many ways to contribute. Many positions only require a few hours or less a month. Please contact the selectmen or Robin Buffum for opportunities to participate in the Roxbury government. Thank you.

Your Selectmen,

James Rousmaniere  Tim O'Brien  Mark Funk